

Exhibit C - Page 1

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essence

2 entries found for **essence**.

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Main Entry: **es-sence** Pronunciation: 'e-s^ən(t)sFunction: *noun*Etymology: Middle English *essencia*, from Latin *essentia*, from *esse* to be -- more at **IS**

1 a : the permanent as contrasted with the accidental element of being **b** : the individual, real, or ultimate nature of a thing especially as opposed to its existence <a painting that captures the *essence* of the land> **c** : the properties or attributes by means of which something can be placed in its proper class or identified as being what it is

2 : something that exists : **ENTITY**

3 a (1) : a volatile substance or constituent (as of perfume) (2) : a constituent or derivative possessing the special qualities (as of a plant or drug) in concentrated form; *also* : a preparation of such an essence or a synthetic substitute **b** : **ODOR**, **PERFUME**

4 : one that possesses or exhibits a quality in abundance as if in concentrated form <she was the *essence* of punctuality>

5 : the most significant element, quality, or aspect of a thing or person <the *essence* of the issue>

- **In essence** : in or by its very nature : **ESSENTIALLY**, **BASICALLY** <was in *essence* an honest person>

- **of the essence** : of the utmost importance <time is *of the essence*>

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Exhibit C - Page 2

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